

**TABLE 19**

The table below presents a 17-year record of the differences between the May projection and the final estimate. Using world wheat production as an example, changes between the May projection and the final estimate have averaged 15.5 million tons (2.9 percent) and ranged from -31.4 to 29.7 million tons. The May projection has been below the final 10 times and above the final 7 times.

**RELIABILITY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS**

COMMODITY AND REGION	PROJECTION AND FINAL ESTIMATES, 1981/82 - 1996/97 1/					
	Difference		Lowest	Highest	Below Final	Above Final
	Average	Average	Difference			
	Percent	---Million metric tons---			Number of years 2/	
<b>WHEAT</b>						
World	2.9	15.5	-31.4	29.7	10	7
U.S.	5.2	3.2	-7.2	9.8	8	9
Foreign	2.9	13.4	-24.1	28.7	9	8
<b>COARSE GRAINS 3/</b>						
World	3.2	25.4	-31.9	75.3	9	8
U.S.	12.7	25.2	-35.9	70.3	8	9
Foreign	2.3	13.0	-26.4	28.1	6	11
<b>RICE (Milled)</b>						
World	2.4	7.7	-21.8	11.4	13	4
U.S.	6.4	0.3	-1.0	0.5	10	7
Foreign	2.4	7.7	-22.0	11.2	13	4
<b>SOYBEANS</b>						
World	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
U.S.	8.1	4.3	-11.3	12.0	10	7
Foreign	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
			---Million 480-lb. bales---			
<b>COTTON</b>						
World	5.1	4.2	-13.7	11.4	11	6
U.S.	9.4	1.4	-2.8	3.1	8	9
Foreign	5.2	3.5	-12.2	10.5	9	8
<b>UNITED STATES</b>			-----Million bushels-----			
<b>CORN</b>	13.4	875	-1,378	2,379	6	11
<b>SORGHUM</b>	15.7	111	-228	171	9	8
<b>BARLEY</b>	9.9	40	-73	206	7	10
<b>OATS</b>	18.3	52	-77	231	4	13

1/ The final estimate for 1981/82-1996/97 is defined as the first November estimate following the marketing year.

2/ May not total 17 if projection was the same as the final.

3/ Includes corn, sorghum, barley, oats, rye, millet, and mixed grain.